

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The color management apparatus according to claim ~~40~~17, wherein said table development means develops said lookup table into said multidimensional lookup table in such a manner that all of the characteristic points of said lookup table composed of the characteristic points are contained.

12. (Currently Amended) The color management apparatus according to claim ~~40~~17, wherein said table development means develops said lookup table into the multidimensional lookup table such that data corresponding to grid points of said multidimensional lookup table is composed of output data of said lookup table and data of information of adjacent grid points for interpolating a portion between grid points.

13. (Currently Amended) The color management apparatus according to claim ~~40~~17, wherein said multidimensional lookup table is a compressed multidimensional lookup table formed by compressing said multidimensional lookup table,

where restoring means is provided, which restores said compressed multidimensional lookup table into said multidimensional lookup table, and

where said image data converting means causes said restoring means to restore said compressed multidimensional lookup table and uses obtained multidimensional lookup table to convert supplied image data into output image data.

14. (Currently Amended) The color management apparatus according to claim ~~40~~17, further comprising:

table recording means for recording said multidimensional lookup table developed by said table development means in a memory; and

updating means for operating said table development means and said table recording means when said lookup table composed of the characteristic points has been updated to update

said multidimensional lookup table and rewrite the updated multidimensional lookup table on said memory,

wherein said image data converting means uses said multidimensional lookup table recorded in said memory to convert supplied image data into output image data.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A color correction method ~~structured such that a multidimensional lookup table is used to convert a~~ for converting supplied image ~~data~~ signal into an output image ~~data~~ signal, said color correction method comprising the steps of:

separating color characteristic data from the supplied image data, wherein the color characteristic data includes:

an identifier for identifying a table development method; and

a lookup table composed of only characteristic points indicating the relationship between supplied image data and output image data, wherein a characteristic point is a point impossible to be interpolated by the identified table development method;

~~producing a lookup table composed of all characteristic points which are points indicating the relationship between input color image signals and output color image signals which are determined to be impossible to be interpolated by a table development process;~~

performing the table development process such that said lookup table composed of all the characteristic points is developed into a multidimensional lookup table; and

converting the supplied image signal into an output image signal ~~by using said multidimensional lookup table obtained by developing said lookup table composed of all the characteristic points.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A color management apparatus for converting supplied image data into output image data using color characteristic data, said color management apparatus comprising:

a separator for separating image format data into the supplied image data and color

characteristic data, wherein the color characteristic data includes:

a lookup table composed of ~~all~~only characteristic points ~~which are points~~ indicating the relationship between supplied image data and output image data, where a characteristic point is a point ~~which are determined to be impossible to be~~ interpolated by a table development method which is to be performed; and

an identifier for identifying a table development method;

table development means for developing said lookup table into a multidimensional lookup table; and

image data converting means which uses the multidimensional lookup table developed by said table development means to convert supplied image data into output image data.